

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 and 12.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in claim ~~1~~ 13, wherein said handle member, said ~~proximal~~ offset member, said arcuate member, and said ~~distal~~ compressor-lever shield member are integrally constructed.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in claim ~~1~~ 13, wherein said handle member and said ~~solid~~ arcuate offset member are releasably interconnected by a first connection means.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in claim 3, wherein said first connection means comprises a threaded engagement between said handle member and said first portion ~~proximal member~~ of said ~~solid~~ arcuate offset member.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in claim 3, wherein said first connection means comprises a slotted engagement between said handle member and said first portion ~~proximal member~~ of said ~~solid~~ arcuate offset member.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in claim ~~4~~ 13, wherein said ~~arcuate~~ offset member and said compression-lever shield member are interconnected by a second connection means.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in claim 6, wherein said second connection means comprises a slotted channel engagement between said ~~arcuate~~ offset member and said compression-lever shield member.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in claim ~~4~~ 13, wherein said compression-lever shield member comprises a substantially flat configuration.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in claim ~~4~~ 13, wherein said compression-lever shield member comprises a substantially concave configuration.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in claim ~~4~~ 13, wherein said compression-lever shield member comprises a perimeter buffered edge to prevent tissue trauma as said shield member is advanced by said medical practitioner through said patient's pharyngeal cavity into said vallecula.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in claim ~~4~~ 13, wherein said arcuate offset member includes a marker means disposed on ~~its~~ said proximal end of said offset member, and said marker means configured to indicate ~~for guiding said medical practitioner~~ when

said compressor-level shield member has been fully inserted into said ~~patient's~~ upper airway.

12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A supraglottic and peri-laryngeal apparatus for insertion of an airway device from a buccal cavity into a pharyngeal cavity of an upper airway region of a patient, said apparatus comprising:

an offset member having a proximal end and a distal end, a first portion at said proximal end of said offset member, a second portion at said distal end of said offset member, and an arcuate portion between said first portion and said second portion, said first portion having a first given length, said second portion having a second given length, said arcuate portion forming a given angle;

a handle member in attachment to said first portion of said offset member; and

a compressor-lever shield member having a proximal end and a distal end, a third portion extending from said proximal end to said distal end of said compressor-lever shield, said third portion having a third given length, said second given length of said second portion and said third given length of said third given portion extending a given distance to position said distal end of the compressor-lever shield within a vallecula adjacent to an epiglottis in the pharyngeal cavity with said first portion of said offset member disposed on a dorsal surface of the tongue;

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wherein said first given length, said second given length, said third given length, said fourth given length, and said given angle of the arcuate portion are configured for simultaneously flattening the tongue in the buccal cavity with the first portion, compressing and lifting the tongue in the pharyngeal cavity with the second portion and the third portion, and mechanically unfolding the epiglottis with the distal end of said compressor-lever shield advanced into the vallecula.